

Mr. Speaker, this problem is not a partisan problem. It has existed throughout the previous administration and the current administration. It requires immediate action. It is time to require OMB to recalculate the 7(a) and 504 program subsidy rates for FY 2003.

RECOGNITION TO NORMA BRITO TODD

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to a friend and constituent of the Sixth District of New Jersey. Mrs. Norma Brito Todd, who at 82 years of age, works as the director and coordinator of Lunch Break Inc. in Red Bank, New Jersey is being honored as New Jersey's Outstanding Older Worker.

Mrs. Todd was born in Long Branch, New Jersey on October 6, 1920. She was one of five children born to Joseph Brito, a real estate broker, and Lucy Brito, a homemaker. She grew up in Red Bank and attended River Street School and Red Bank High School. Norma began her college education at North Carolina State College in Durham, NC. She completed her studies at Cortez Peters Business School in Washington, DC. She graduated in 1944.

In Washington, Norma met and shortly thereafter married James Richard Todd. Together they embarked on a thirty-five year career and never-ending adventure in the U.S. Foreign Service, which took them all over the world. Some of their stops over the course of these thirty-five years included:

Cairo, Egypt, where Norma helped administer anti-cholera injections and taught hygiene to local townspeople. Norma had ample time to evacuate, but she chose to remain at her husband's side and assist during this epidemic. The Todd's older daughter, Cynthia, was born in Cairo.

Tel Aviv, Israel, Norma helped her husband distribute Social Security checks to retired Americans living in remote places in Israel. The Todd's second daughter, Coralle, was born during their stay in Israel.

Now at 81 years of age, Mrs. Norma Todd is the Director and Coordinator of the Lunch Break Program in Red Bank. She has held this position since 1983. She arrives at the center each morning at seven, stating that she needs a little peaceful time to herself before the hustle and bustle of the day begins.

Norma's colleagues describe her as: a mother, a teacher, a friend, or just a shoulder to cry on to those in the community who find themselves in need. She has a sparkle in her eye, and a bounce in her gait. Norma's life mission has always been to help those in need, both young and old. She has always devoted her time to her family and to public service. She has never measured her success by money but rather by her accomplishments throughout the world.

It is with great satisfaction and appreciation that I ask my colleagues to join with me and

commend the extraordinary contributions of Mrs. Norma Brito Todd.

SUPPORT DEMOCRACY IN BURMA

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, today news reports reveal that over 300 Karen villagers fled their homes because State Peace and Development Council soldiers, known to the rest of the world as the government military dictatorship, burned their villages to the ground. Once again, villagers in Burma are living homeless in the jungle.

On September 18, 1988, the military forced its rule on the people of Burma, a rule that has been dominated by severe violence and oppression including rape, the enslavement of children, attacks on ethnic minorities, imprisonment and torture of democratic political opposition groups, and the destruction of homes and villages. The people of Burma have struggled to survive under this brutal regime. On this day of tragic remembrance, the United States and the entire international community must come together to support and assist the Karen, Karenni, Chin, Shan and other people of Burma.

The Burmese regime does not limit its attacks to ethnic minorities, but also brutally oppresses religious minorities. The military invades villages, divides families through forced relocation, and uses rape and murder to subjugate the people. The Karen community in southern Burma has been under severe attack by the Burmese military, particularly this year. Earlier this summer, I shared in a floor speech that I had photographic evidence of a massacre in the Karen State in Burma. The regime's troops brutally killed innocent civilians as they attempted to flee to refugee camps in neighboring Thailand. Despite promises to the international community that it will cease such blatant human rights violations, the regime refuses to take action against those responsible for the massacre. As usual, no investigation into the incident has occurred.

The SPDC regime deceives the international community again and again by saying one thing and then doing another. Recently, the SPDC freed democracy leader and 1991 Nobel Peace Prize recipient Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and promised to permit free political expression in Burma. Since that promise, however, the regime refuses to open a political dialogue with the National League for Democracy and Burma's ethnic communities.

The international community, on behalf of the people of Burma, should make it clear that the oppressive dictators of Burma will no longer be tolerated—we do not want to remember another anniversary of the human rights violations against Burma's people. Instead, next year on this day, we should be celebrating the return of democracy and freedom to the people of Burma.

I urge our Administration and my colleagues in Congress to act to support democracy in Burma and help provide aid to the suffering

ethnic minorities. In addition, I urge the international community to press Burma's regime to cease the violence and murder perpetrated against the people and allow the legitimately elected leaders of the country to govern.

FOR BURMESE FREEDOM

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, fourteen years ago today the Burmese people rose up and protested, non-violently, against the military regime ruling their country. They marched—students, farmers, monks, academics, journalists and professionals alike—in front of the U.S. Embassy, in Rangoon, to tell the world that they wanted democracy. Our embassy heard their pleas, their shouts for freedom. In a nationwide uprising, that predated that of Tiananmen Square, thousands of brave souls lost their lives, in Rangoon alone. CNN did not record the event—TV coverage then, and today, is not allowed in Burma, unless stage-managed by the regime.

How fortunate the Burmese people are to have a leader, Nobel Peace Prize recipient, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who has willingly sacrificed her own freedom for that of her 50 million countrymen and women. Her party, the National League for Democracy, (NLD) won a free and fair election despite her being under house arrest, in 1990. The people of Burma voted for all which we hold sacred. Fourteen years is a long time to wait to honor the election results and the aspirations of the Burmese people.

The Congress and all administrations since that time, have supported the NLD and Burma's democracy movement. But we have done enough. The regime tells us, through their DC-based lobbyist, that they are willing to cooperate with the U.S. on counter narcotic measures. Evidence points to the contrary. Where is Khun Sa, the infamous drug lord? Although he has been under indictment in the Eastern District of New York for Federal drug violations that include conspiracy, importation of, and possession with intent to distribute heroin in the United States, he is believed to be residing in a military safe house in Rangoon, under a cease fire and amnesty agreement with the military junta. He is free; the Burmese people are not. He joins the generals in living without fear; while the Burmese people do not.

Accordingly, on this day fourteen years after the Burmese people gave their lives for democracy, we ask the world and this Congress for support to continue to pressure the regime until the aspirations of the Burmese people are fulfilled. I urge my colleagues not to forget that, in Burma, a parliamentary chamber has not been filled with an electorate.

Aung San Suu Kyi has said: "What we are concerned about is the freedom of political parties and the freedom of all the people of Burma." If we turn our backs on Burma, if we don't speak out, and act, in support of those who chose democracy, we will be undermining all duly elected public officials, including ourselves.